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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/910,057	07/23/2001	Kenji Kusunoki	P107385-00005	2560

23353 7590 08/22/2002

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EXAMINER

HUFFMAN, JULIAN D

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2853

DATE MAILED: 08/22/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/910,057

Applicant(s)

KUSUNOKI, KENJI

Examiner

Julian D. Huffman

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 7 and 8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3-6 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 3.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 2 is objected to because of the following informalities: In claim 2, paragraph f, it is respectfully suggested that the phrase "said one of the first pair of helical gears in sliding engagement with one of the second pair of helical gears" be changed to read "said one of the first pair of helical gears, which is in sliding engagement with one of the second pair of helical gears," so as to ensure that proper antecedent basis is provided. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ueda et al. (U.S. 5,383,393).

Ueda et al. discloses a printing press comprising:

a plate cylinder (fig. 10, element PC) split into a pair of halves, the pair of halves of the plate cylinder being capable of independent displacement both axially and circumferentially of the plate cylinder;

a blanket cylinder (BC) in rolling contact with the plate cylinder;

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a first pair of helical gears coaxially coupled to opposite ends of the plate cylinder for joint rotation therewith (fig. 9, 114);

a second pair of helical gears coaxially coupled to opposite ends of the blanket cylinder for joint rotation therewith, the second pair of helical gears being each in mesh with one of the first pair of helical gears for joint rotation of the plate cylinder and the blanket cylinder in opposite directions (115, column 4, lines 16-18);

axial adjustment means for causing axial displacement of each half of the plate cylinder independently of the other half with a view to fine positioning of each of the pair of images transversely of the web (fig. 8, element 101);

circumferential adjustment means (fig. 9, element 117) coupled to one of the first pair of helical gears, for causing circumferential displacement of a preselected one of the halves of the plate cylinder relative to the other half by causing axial displacement of said one of the first pair of helical gears in sliding engagement with one of the second pair of helical gears, with a view to fine positioning of one of the pair of images longitudinally of the web (column 13, lines 6-21); and

drive means for jointly driving the plate cylinder and the blanket cylinder in opposite directions at a predetermined speed during printing (fig. 7, 108).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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5. Claims 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ueda et al. in view of Schneider et al. (U.S. 6,338,298 B2).

Ueda et al. discloses the invention of claim 7:

a pair of plate cylinders (fig. 10, element PC, PC') split into a pair of halves, the pair of halves of the plate cylinder being capable of independent displacement both axially and circumferentially of the plate cylinder;

a pair of blanket cylinders (BC, BC') in rolling contact with the plate cylinder;

a first pair of helical gears coaxially coupled to opposite ends of the plate cylinders for joint rotation therewith (fig. 9, 114);

a second pair of helical gears coaxially coupled to opposite ends of the blanket cylinders for joint rotation therewith, the second pair of helical gears being each in mesh with one of the first pair of helical gears for joint rotation of the plate cylinder and the blanket cylinder in opposite directions (115, column 4, lines 16-18);

axial adjustment means for causing axial displacement of each half of the plate cylinders independently of the other half with a view to fine positioning of each of the pair of images transversely of the web (fig. 8, element 101);

circumferential adjustment means (fig. 9, element 117) coupled to one of the first pair of helical gears, for causing circumferential displacement of a preselected one of the halves of the plate cylinder relative to the other half by causing axial displacement of said one of the first pair of helical gears in sliding engagement with one of the second pair of helical gears, with a view to fine positioning of one of the pair of images longitudinally of the web (column 13, lines 6-21); and

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drive means for jointly driving the plate cylinder and the blanket cylinder in opposite directions at a predetermined speed during printing (fig. 7, 108).

Ueda et al. does not disclose first drive means for driving the first plate cylinder and blanket cylinder and second drive means for driving the second plate cylinder and blanket cylinder.

Schneider et al. discloses a first drive means (M) connected to a first blanket cylinder (2) for driving a first pair of a blanket cylinder and plate cylinder (3) and second drive means connected to a second blanket cylinder for driving a second pair of a blanket cylinder and plate cylinder (fig. 1).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the driving structure of Schneider et al. into the invention of Ueda et al. The reason for performing the modification would have been to economically provide optimal print positions (column 2, lines 31-35) with a simple design with the highest possible degree of configuration freedom in forming print positions and groups of print positions (column 6, line 64-column 7, line 2).

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 3-6 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

With regards to claim 3, the prior art of record does not disclose:

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a sleeve coaxially and rotatably mounted to one trunnion of the plate cylinder and constrained to axial displacement therewith and hence with one half of the plate cylinder relative to the frame means, the sleeve being driven for bidirectional rotation from the axial adjustment motor;

and screw thread means acting between the frame means and the sleeve means for causing the sleeve to travel axially back and forth with said one plate cylinder half upon bidirectional rotation of the sleeve.

With regards to claim 4, the prior art of record does not disclose the limitations found in paragraphs c-f of claim 4.

With regards to claims 5-6, the prior art of record does not disclose a second sleeve coaxially secured to one of the trunnions and coaxially coupled to the threaded rod so as to permit rotation of the latter while being constrained to joint axial displacement with the threaded rod.

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Julian D. Huffman whose telephone number is (703) 308-6556. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Barlow, can be reached at (703) 308-3126. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 308-7722.

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Faxes requiring the immediate attention of the examiner may be sent directly to the examiner at (703) 746-4386. Note that this number will not automatically send a confirmation that the fax was received.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

JA

JH

August 15, 2002


CRAIG HALLACHER
PRIMARY EXAMINER